

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFAE

UNCLAS STATE 089228

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR,CY,TU

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SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY ON GREECE, TURKEY AND
CYPRUS BEFORE HIRC

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY GENERAL DAVID C. JONES,
CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ON FY 1979
SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE, TURKEY , AND CYPRUS
BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, APRIL

6, 1978:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ARE CONCERNED OVER THE CURRENT
SITUATION INVOLVING GREECE AND TURKEY, TWO VALUABLE ALLIES
AND FRIENDS WHOSE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO MAIN-
TAINING A STRONG POLITICAL AND MILITARY POSTURE IN THE STRA-
TEGICALLY IMPORTANT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, THEIR CONTROL OVER
SEA AND AIR EXITS FROM THE BLACK SEA AREA, AND DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NATO, GREECE AND
TURKEY CONSTITUTE A VITAL LINK IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE SYS-
TEM. BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY POSSESS EXCELLENT NAVAL AND
AIR FACILITIES WHICH IN THE EVENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS
COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SUPPORTING OPERATIONS OF UNITED
STATES FORCES IN NATO'S SOUTHERN REGION. FURTHERMORE, A

LOOK AT THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERR-
ANEAN, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE PERSIAN GULF AREA MAKES IT
APPARENT THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY CONSTITUTE THE GATE-
WAY INTO THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT REGION.

INDEED, IN THE EVENT OF A PROLONGED CRISIS REQUIRING THE
DEPLOYMENT OF US OR ALLIED FORCES OR THE LOGISTIC SUPPORT
OF AN ALLY, THE COOPERATION OF GREECE AND TURKEY COULD BE
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ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVEMENT OF NATO OBJECTIVES.

GREEK AND TURKISH NATIONAL FORCES LINKED TO NATO CONSTITUTE
A MAJOR DETERRENT TO POSSIBLE SOVIET AMBITIONS OR INFLU-
ENCE IN THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE, THEY TIE DOWN MAJOR
SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCES WHICH OTHERWISE COULD BE
COMMITTED TO THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION.

WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, THE UNITED STATES SEEKS TO PROMOTE
COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE GREEK AND TURKISH MILITARY PAR-
TICIPATION AND TO ENHANCE THEIR STRATEGIC POSITION AS A
BARRIER TO POSSIBLE EXPANSION OR EXPORT OF SOVIET POWER.
THIS MEANS ASSISTING GREECE AND TURKEY IN MAINTAINING A
MODERN AND COMBAT READY MILITARY POSTURE TO DETER AGGRES-
SION AND, IF DETERRENCE FAILS, TO HAVE THE MEANS OF DEFEN-
DING NATO TERRITORY IN COOPERATION WITH THE ALLIANCE.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE JOINT CHIEFS IS THE IMPACT
OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO AND SUBSEQUENT US ARMS SALES
RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY. BECAUSE THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES
ARE EQUIPPED ALMOST TOTALLY WITH OLDER US EQUIPMENT, THEY
ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEPENDENT

UPON ACCESS TO US SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, OLDER ITEMS IN THEIR INVENTORY ARE BECOMING DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT THROUGH OUR LOGISTICS SOURCES BECAUSE PARTS ARE, OR WILL BE, NON-AVAILABLE. THUS, THEY ALSO NEED REPLACEMENT SYSTEMS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN HIS 21 MARCH PENTAGON PRESS CONFERENCE, GENERAL HAIG STATED THAT BY 1980 THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES WILL BE FACED WITH A WALL OF OBSOLESCENCE. IF ASSISTANCE IS NOT MADE AVAILABLE THE ARMED FORCES OF THIS IMPORTANT ALLY WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN FIGHTING CAPABILITY AND THUS IN DETERRENT POSTURE. THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A POSTURE WOULD BE GRAVE, NOT ONLY FOR TURKEY, BUT FOR GREECE, NATO AND THE US.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR VIEWS THAT A MILITARILY WEAK TURKEY OR GREECE WOULD DEGRADE NATO'S OVERALL MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE UNITED STATES' NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS IN

THIS VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORLD. END TEXT.
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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 089228 SENT ACTION ATHENS ANKARA

NICOSIA INFO ISTANBUL BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON USNATO
ADANA IZMIR BONN USUN NEW YORK USDOCOSOUTH USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR USCINCEUR CINCUSAFE APR 06.
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